

JOHN W. KENNER HOUSE  
69-71 Nineteenth Street  
City of Wheeling  
Ohio County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-259

HABS  
WVA  
35-WHEEL,  
42-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOHN W. KENNER HOUSE

HABS No. WV-259

HABS  
WVA  
35-WHEEL,  
42-

Location: 69-71 Nineteenth Street (north side of Nineteenth Street  
between Jacob Street and W.V. Route 2 Overpass).  
City of Wheeling  
Ohio County  
West Virginia

U.S.G.S. Wheeling Quadrangle, West Virginia  
Universal Mercator Coordinates 17.524100.443400

Significance: An example of an Italianate vernacular double row house. Located in the Fulton Area of Wheeling amidst several industrial businesses and probably constructed for the purposes of workers' housing.

Description: A two-story brick residence, built as a double row structure, four bays wide. The building faces south on Nineteenth Street and is built up to the front property line and covers the entire width of the lot for the front half of the property. It is the end of a series of double row buildings beginning at the intersection of Jacob Street.

There is a raised foundation of ashlar cut limestone capped with a cut limestone belt course. There is a concrete block double staircase built over the property line with poured concrete steps. There is an opening in the center of the block wall for basement access.

The front frame is hard burned red brick laid in a running bond pattern. The side walls are common "soft" brick. The windows are two over two double hung wood sash with arched top sill and a wooden arched projecting lintel with flared horizontal ends and egg and dart detailing.

The front entry doors are flanked with wood pilasters with applied raised trim to form panels. There are brackets attached to each pilaster to support a similar lintel to the windows.

There is a projecting wood cornice at the roof line with five pairs of double wood brackets. There is a deep wooden frieze board with applied wood trim to form panels between the brackets, and applied open scalloped "roping" at the soffit.

The roof is a gable low pitch covered with rolled asphalt paper. The rear one-story addition is wood frame and has a shed type roof. There is a double brick chimney on each side of the two-story main portion of the building.

The west gable end is plain without any fenestration except in the attic with a single one over one double hung wood sash. The rear one-story wood addition has one over one wood double hung windows and is covered with wood clap board siding. The floor plan for each unit consists of one room wide and two rooms deep in the brick portion of the residence. The rooms are separated by an enclosed staircase laid transversely. The first floor rear addition contains a kitchen and bathroom.

There are two fireplaces located on each side wall of both units. The second floor plan has two bedrooms separated by the stairs.

The floors are soft wood pine. The walls and ceilings are plastered. The front entry doors have a top square glass panel with three panels below, and a transom above. The casings are rounded stepped down. The baseboard is plain with a molded top. The mantels are simple wood with applied trim to form pilasters.

History: Probably built in the 1870s. The architect and builder are unknown.

The Fulton Area of Wheeling was first platted in 1838 and was separated from Wheeling Creek and downtown Wheeling by a steep hillside called "Wheeling Hill." This area contains many units of workers' housing probably due to the industries that developed along Wheeling Creek and the flat floodplain on the East Side of Wheeling Hill. Some of these industries included the Shenk, Weimers and Zoecklers Meat Packing, the Wheeling stockyards and the Blaw Knox foundry.

In the immediate area of the 69-71 Nineteenth Street property there were several additional industries. On the southwest corner of Nineteenth and Jacob Street, across the street from this property, is a brick building which was initially a zinc factory in the 1870s and was later owned by Hazel-Atlas Glass to produce metal lids. At it's peak, this industry alone employed over 5,000 persons. This building is now part of Penn Wheeling Closure and was recently nominated to the National Register. Further down Nineteenth Street is a brick building which once housed Sterling Products, a pharmaceutical company which at one time manufactured Bayer Aspirin. This building was also recently nominated to the National Register. In the vicinity was also located, at one time or another, Reymann Brewing Company, Central Glass and a steel plant across Wheeling Creek. The close proximity of all of these major Wheeling industries lends credence to the supposition that the residential structure at 69-71 Nineteenth Street was built as workers' housing.

According to the Ohio County deeds, this two-family residential row dwelling has been jointly transferred to subsequent owners. The initial owners were John W. and Ida M. Kenner. In 1909, the property was sold to William G. Caldwell. Mutual Savings Bank of Wheeling acquired the property in 1914 and eventually sold it to Thomas E. and Cecilia Reed in 1919. In 1923, records indicate that the property was sold to the following persons in joint ownership: Lena (widow), Dominick P. and Angeline T. Zanke. In 1954 Vincent J. and H.V. Zanke acquired the property. They were owners until 1968 when the V.J. Zanke Co. purchased it. In 1982, Robert and Marlene J. Yahn purchased the property and sold it one month later to the Penn Wheeling Closure Corporation, the present owner.

Sources: Ohio County Deed Books, City-County Building, Wheeling,  
West Virginia

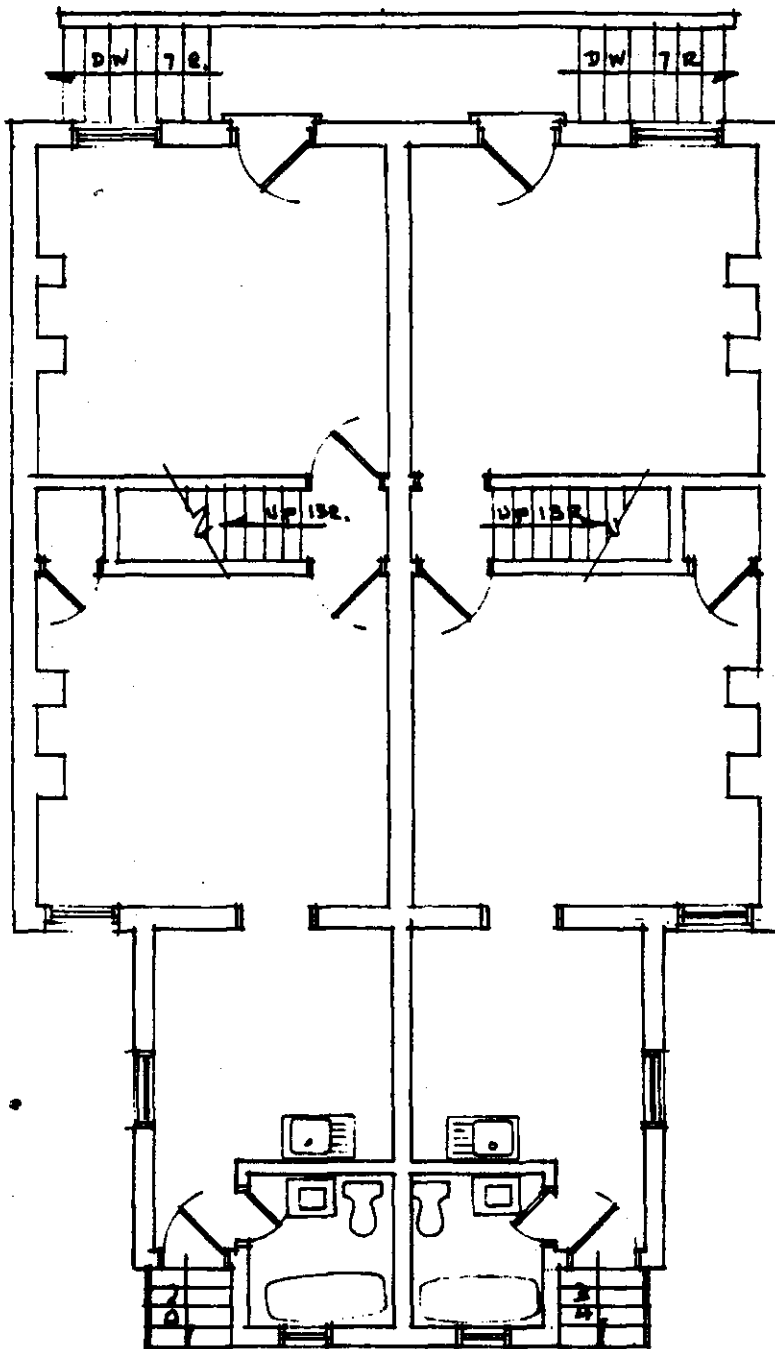
Sanborne Map, c. 1952

Site visit in July, 1992

Katherine M. Jourdan, Director  
Northern Regional Office  
WV State Historic Preservation Office  
August, 1992

Historians: Walter J. Haglund, AIA  
Registered Architect  
August, 1992  
Mullin and Lonergan Associates, Inc.

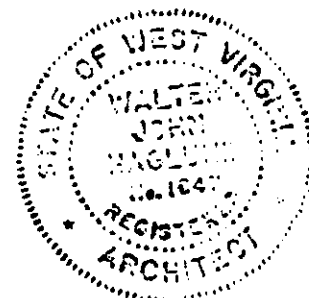
Marjorie Williams  
Planner  
August, 1992  
Mullin and Lonergan Associates, Inc.

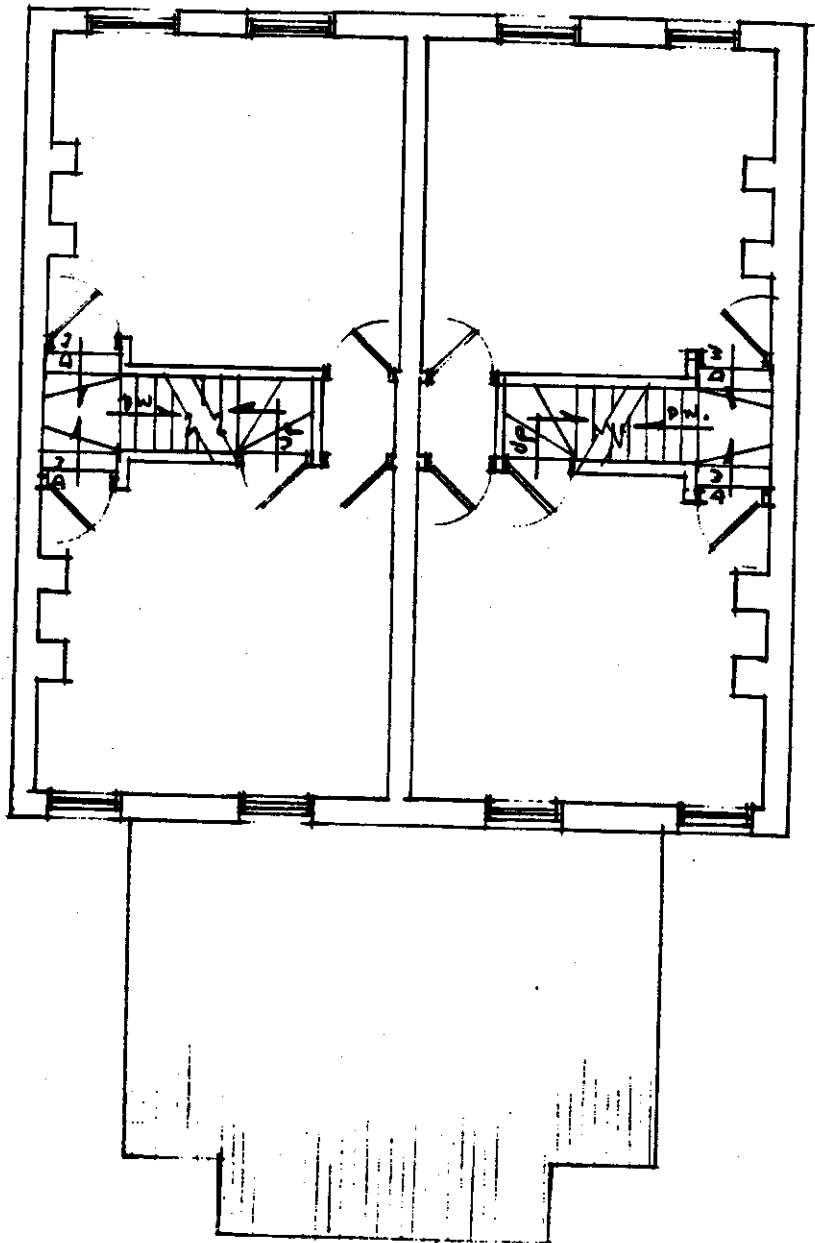


**• FIRST FLOOR PLAN •**

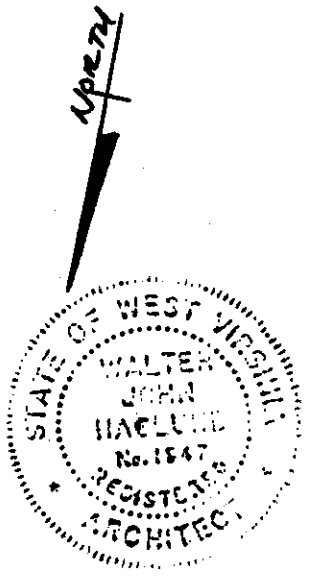
SCALE:

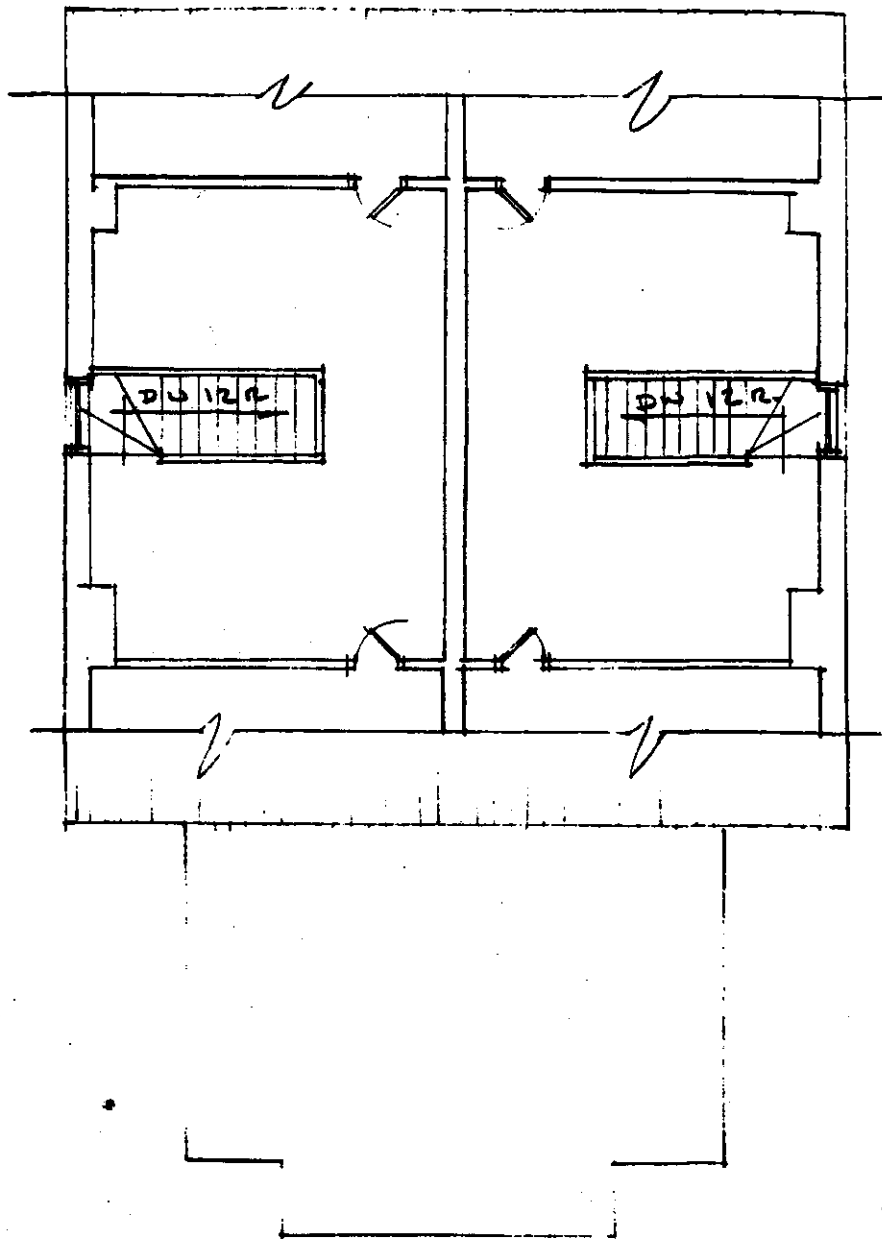
$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$





**• SECOND FLOOR PLAN •**  
SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$





• THIRD FLOOR PLAN •  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

